



## **DESERTS**

### **Butterflies Alive!**

Running through April, visitors to The Living Desert can experience, “Butterflies Alive!,” an exhibit featuring hundreds of North American butterflies representing over 30 different species, including Queen, Painted Lady, Cloudless Sulphur, Giant Swallowtail and many more. The butterflies roam freely in a spacious screened house, adorned with lush gardens and tranquil fountains. There’s also a Pupa Emergence Room where guests can view the third stage of a butterfly’s life as it emerges as a butterfly from a chrysalis shell. Contact: The Living Desert, (760) 346-5694, [www.livingdesert.org](http://www.livingdesert.org).

### **Celebrity Tours®**

Celebrity Tours® has added two new tours to its offering. Every Thursday, Celebrity Tours® will escort sightseers to many of the 70 homes of famous Hollywood stars. Guests can then venture over 8,000 feet in the air for a world-class view of the Palm Springs Desert Resorts via the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. Enjoy dinner at the top of Mt. San Jacinto and cap the evening with dessert, drinks, and shopping at Palm Springs VillageFest. Tickets are \$55 per person. Contact: Celebrity Tours®, (760) 770-2700, [www.celebrity-tours.com](http://www.celebrity-tours.com).

### **Desert Adventures**

Visitors can experience the wonders of the Coachella Valley in an interactive and engaging way through Desert Adventures’ Jeep Eco Tours and Special Events’ new teambuilding and team bonding programs. Daytime teambuilding activities on the San Andreas Fault include a desert version of “The Amazing Race” and “Survivor.” The new evening Scorpion King Rally is part riddle rally, scavenger hunt, and orienteering activity. Racing against the clock and each other, teams solve riddles, locate hidden items, and navigate with a map and compass to explore steep-walled canyons in jeeps. Contact: Desert Adventures, (888) 440-5337 or (760) 324-5337, [www.red-jeep.com](http://www.red-jeep.com).

### **Educational Programs Insight at Desert Institute**

This spring, the Desert Institute at Joshua Tree National Park presents outdoor adult weekend classes enabling visitors to explore the desert and learn about its habitat and history. Classes include Rocks and Minerals of Joshua Tree March 3, 4 and 5, Scats, Tracks and Animal Facts March 11, and Explore Eagle Cliff Hills and Mine on March 12. Desert Night Sky on March 18 allows visitors to enjoy some of the darkest night skies in the region and is perfect for sky gazing. Plant lovers will enjoy Wildflower Wanderings on March 19 and Flora of Joshua Tree National Park on March 25 and 26. Contact: Joshua Tree National Park Association, (760) 367-5525, [www.joshuatree.org](http://www.joshuatree.org).

### **Mojave National Preserve Opens Information Center**

The Mojave National Preserve recently opened a new National Park Service Information Center, Kelso Depot Information Center. The building was an old train station, lunch room and employee dormitory that has been renovated for use as the information center. The building now houses museum exhibits, historically furnished rooms, a theater and bookstore. The landscaping has been restored and a picnic area and parking have been added. Contact: Mojave National Preserve, (760) 252-6101, [www.nps.gov/moja](http://www.nps.gov/moja).